

**REMARKS**

Independent claims 1 and 7 have been amended to more clearly state the invention.

No new matter has been entered by the above amendments.

Claims 1 -7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hsu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,370,052). Claims 1 and 7 have been amended in order to better define the invention. Consequently, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejection of claims 1 -7 in view of the following comments.

The Applicant's invention is directed toward an improved layout for CAM cells. The problem the present invention solves is clearly stated in the subject application on page 4, lines 5-20.

These features of the invention which solves these problems is recited in the independent claims, as well as additional features of the dependent claims, are believed clearly to be patentable over the applied prior art.

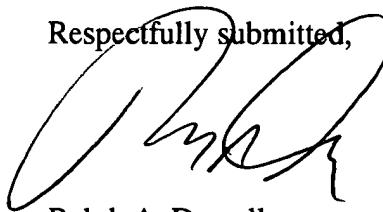
The Examiner refers to figure 6 of Hsu in formulating the rejection. Firstly, applicant wishes to point out that figure 6 of Hsu related to a conventional SRAM cell and NOT a CAM cell as claimed in the subject invention. Furthermore Hsu et al., does not teach that the **CAM cells each having an equal number of transistors of a p-type and an n-type** nor does it state that the **p-wells are separated from the n-wells by at most one p+ to n+ region spacing**. In fact the CAM cells of Hsu as seen in the figures 8-17 clearly show an uneven number of n to p type devices.

Accordingly for at least the above reasons claims 1-7 are not anticipated by Hsu since it does not remotely suggest or teach each and every element of the claims.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.



Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosure.